



EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Date 11/16/01 Label No. EL767720374-US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, this paper or fee was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service & that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

D. Perez
Name (Print)

D. Perez
Signature

Customer No.:



07278

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No. 1313/1F022-US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Roger Bruce Harding *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/557,804

Art Unit: 1623

Filed: April 25, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: **CELLULOSE ETHERS AND METHOD OF PREPARING THE SAME**

DECLARATION OF ROGER BRUCE HARDING

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

I, Roger Bruce Harding, of 9196 Bruton Parish Cove, Memphis, Tennessee

38133, hereby declare as follows:

1. I have been employed at Buckeye Technologies, Inc. and its predecessor since 1983 and a research manager since September 1996. Currently, my responsibilities include managing all cellulose ethers research at Buckeye Technologies, Inc.

2. Upon information and belief, more than one year before the earliest effective filing date of the above-identified application, *i.e.*, April 26, 1999, Buckeye Technologies Inc. sold mercerized and dried cellulose pulp derived from southern softwood kraft wood to a customer.

3. Upon information and belief, the cellulose pulp sold had a TAPPI 230 om-89 viscosity between 10.4 and 11.2 cP, a solubility in 10% sodium hydroxide as determined by ASTM D 1696-95 of less than 2.3%, and a solubility in 18% sodium hydroxide as determined by ASTM D 1696-95 of less than 1.3%.

4. Upon information and belief, the cellulose pulp was prehydrolyzed and bleached with elemental chlorine.

5. Upon information and belief, the customer used the cellulose pulp in the production of hydroxyethyl cellulose.

6. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so

made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the present application or any patent issuing thereon.

Dated: November 14/01

Roger Bruce Harding
Roger Bruce Harding